

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for reproducing data by scanning slant tracks formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum,
5 said apparatus comprising:

measuring means for measuring error rates by reading said data from said tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

10 track detecting means for detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said error rates measured by said measuring means;

15 head determining means for determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track at lowest error rates based on said error rates measured by said measuring means; and

20 servo control means for performing tracking servo control such that said worst track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined by said head determining means.

25 2. The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein four tracks are cyclically formed on said tape-shaped recording medium, adjacent ones of said four tracks having different azimuth angles; and
four reproducing heads are disposed for each azimuth
30 angle on said rotary drum.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said measuring means measures said error rates
while said tape-shaped recording medium is forwarded at a
different speed from a normal reproduction speed.

5

4. The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said servo control means is configured to
perform servo control such that said error rates of said
data read by said pair of reproducing heads determined by
10 said head determining means are optimized in the middle of
said worst track in a longitudinal direction thereof.

5. A method of reproducing data by scanning slant tracks
formed on a tape-shaped recording medium using a plurality
15 of reproducing heads disposed on a rotary drum, said method
comprising the steps of:

measuring error rates by reading said data from said
tracks formed on said tape-shaped recording medium by said
reproducing heads disposed on said rotary drum;

20 detecting a worst track deemed to have a highest error
rate from said tracks respectively formed at predetermined
cycles on said tape-shaped recording medium, based on said
error rates measured by said measuring step;

determining a pair of reproducing heads out of said
25 plurality of reproducing heads, said pair of reproducing
heads are able to read data recorded on said worst track
at lowest error rates, based on said error rates measured
by said measuring step; and

performing tracking servo control such that said worst
30 track is scanned by said pair of reproducing heads determined
by said determining step.